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HOUSE RESOLUTION 166
By Arriola

A RESOLUTION to create a Special House Committee to study the state's inspections of food service locations by the Departments of Health and Agriculture and the fees associated therewith.

WHEREAS, members of the public of the state of Tennessee and its many visitors have the right to expect that food served to them in Tennessee's restaurants, hotels, and other food service establishments, shall be prepared and served in a wholesome and healthy fashion; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has enjoyed a long tradition of providing high-quality hospitality to its guests; and

WEHREAS, the citizens of this state, its guests, and its hospitality industry believe that a strong, professional program of health inspections for food service establishments is important; and

WHEREAS, both the customers and the establishments have participated in the funding of such inspection programs; and

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WHEREAS, through the years there has developed a divergence of inspection of food service establishments, with some of these establishments being inspected by the Department of Health and some by the Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, as a part of that divergence, the fees associated with such inspections have varied so that similar establishments are charged vastly differing amounts for such inspections, and

WHEREAS, it is now appropriate to study these issues and make recommendations as to how best to handle and fairly charge such fees, while maintaining a high level of inspection and thereby guaranteeing Tennessee's hospitality and industry members and their customers safe and healthy service of food; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That there is hereby created a Committee to study and review the state's programs of inspections and fees for establishments which serve food for the consumption by the public, and to determine whether the fees paid for such inspections are adequate, appropriate, and paid for by the appropriate groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall study whether the program itself is doing all that is necessary to assure the safety of Tennessee's citizens and guests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of seven (7) members, one member of the Health and Human Resources Committee, for purposes of the study and review set forth herein; the House Minority Leader; the Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Children and Family Affairs; a member of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee; one person to be appointed by the Tennessee Restaurant Association; one person to be appointed by the Tennessee Hotel/Motel Association; and one person to be appointed by the Tennessee Grocers Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the Special House Committee upon the request of the Chair, including the provisions of reports and information on state policies and procedures, and the implementation of such policies and procedures, and the state's budget and financing for such programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all members of the Committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and any other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Committee shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred First General Assembly no later than November 15, 2000 at which time the committee shall cease to exist.